



## House Bill 299

### *Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: March 23, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 299. The bill seeks to create a system whereby synthetic turf can be tracked through its entire lifecycle, from production to eventual recycling or disposal. Counties support this effort and the friendly clarifying amendments.

**House amendments have addressed initial concerns from county governments, park departments, and facility managers.** Counties are grateful for these alterations, and pleased to support this bill as a resolution to extended work on this important issue.

Synthetic turf is a widely used product in the parks and recreation space meant to mimic grass fields. The turf is primarily used to cover spaces that experience a high volume of use and where natural grass may offer an unreasonable expense or be labor intensive to maintain. High volume usage of artificial fields can, overall, reduce the need for expensive and more rigorously maintained natural fields.

Counties support the intent of HB 299 as amended, establishing a statewide inventory of synthetic turf fields through a chain of custody system. Changes made by the House simply clarified certain technical provisions within the bill, ensuring counties can implement this new program. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 299.